

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 03529 120656Z

14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /089 W
----- 076128

R 111600Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMCONGEN BELIZE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 3529

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: GT, BH, MX, PBOR, UK

SUBJ: BELIZE: SHOMAN INTERVIEW IN MEXICO AND GUATEMALAN REACTION

1. SUMMARY: BELIZE MINISTER OF STATE ASSAD SHOMAN REPORTEDLY TOLD MEXICAN DAILY EXCELSIOR THAT BELIZE WOULD ACCEPT HELP FROM ANYONE INCLUDING CUBA TO DEFEND ITS SOVEREIGNTY AGAINST GUATEMALA. INTERVIEW HAS THUS FAR RECEIVED ONLY LIMITED ATTENTION IN GUATEMALA. FONMIN MOLINA CALLED SHOMAN "IMMATURE AND IMPERTINENT".

2. BELIZEAN MINISTER ASSAD SHOMAN, DURING A STOPOVER IN MEXICO CITY EN ROUTE HOME FROM TALKS WITH GUATEMALA IN NEW ORLEANS APRIL 26 AND 27, WAS INTERVIEWED BY MEXICAN DAILY EXCELSIOR. INTERVIEW REPORTED IN ONLY THREE NEWSPAPERS HERE, IMPARTIAL FRONTPAGEING UPI STORY MAY 7 AND ONLY SMALL MORNING IMPACTO MAY 8 CARRYING FULL TEXT OF INTERVIEW, UNDER MISLEADING FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE "BELIZE PREPARES ITS ARMY FOR WAR".

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GUATEM 03529 120656Z

3. ACCORDING TO EXCELSIOR, SHOMAN SAID THAT IF GUATEMALA CONTINUES TO INSIST ON NOT RECOGNIZING THE RIGHT OF BELIZEANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE, COLONY WILL SEEK MILITARY SUPPORT FROM GREAT BRITAIN, CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, OR ANY COUNTRY THAT OFFERS IT. MILITARY SUPPORT INCLUDES ACCEPTANCE OF MERCENARY FORCES FROM WHEREVER THEY MIGHT COME.

4. ASKED IF REFERENCE TO MERCENARIES INCLUDED POSSIBILITY OF HAVING RECOURSE TO CUBA, SHOMAN SAID, "WE HAVE NO AGREEMENT WITH CUBA IN THAT SENSE. BUT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE WE WILL ACCEPT HELP FROM WHEREVER IT COMES." SHOMAN ADDED THAT GOG HAS USED "AS A PROPAGANDA TOOL" STORY THAT ONCE BELIZE BECOMES INDEPENDENT IT WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE CUBANS. HE LABELLED THIS "A SIMPLE DEVICE TO PRESSURE AND OBTAIN SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES. IT IS AN ARGUMENT GUATEMALA USES WITH GREAT FREQUENCY, ALSO TO DISTRACT THE ATTENTION OF ITS PEOPLE FROM THEIR INTERNAL PROBLEMS."

5. SHOMAN SAID, "THE DAY THE ENGLISH LEAVE BELIZE WILL NEED A GUARANTEE THAT GUATEMALA WILL NOT DARE TO INVADE ITS TERRITORY. AND 600 POLICE THAT COLONY CAN NOW COUNT ON, COMMANDED BY BRITISH BUT PAID FOR BY BELIZEANS, CANNOT GIVE THIS GUARANTEE."

6. SHOMAN SAID THAT BELIZE HAS A SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY, BY WHICH AGGRESSION AGAINST ANY MEMBER WILL BE CONSIDERED AS AGGRESSION AGAINST ALL. "THE FACT THAT WE CAN COUNT ON MILITARY SUPPORT OF OTHER NATIONS AND THAT AT PRESENT TIME WE ARE RAISING OUR OWN DEFENSE FORCE, DOES

NOT BY ANY MEANS INDICATE THAT WE MAINTAIN A BELLIGERENT STAND TOWARD PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA. WE WANT PEACE, AND WE HOPE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL GUATEMALANS, BUT FIRST COMES OUR SURVIVAL."

7. MORNING NATION MAY 8 CARRIED FONMIN MOLINA'S REACTION. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING, "IF, AS THE WIRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GUATEM 03529 120656Z

SERVICE STORY FROM MEXICO SAYS, THESE STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY MR. SHOMAN, THIS INDICATES A TOTAL LACK OF MATURITY THAT CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS IMPERTINENCE." BEST DEMONSTRATION THAT ALL NEED FOR OUTSIDE MILITARY SUPPORT FOR BELIZE HAS DISAPPEARED IS RECENT WITHDRAWAL OF THE BRITISH AIRBORNE TROOPS".

8. COMMENT: IF SHOMAN IS CONCERNED AS HE SAYS THAT

GUATEMALA HAS USED THE SPECTER OF A HYPOTHETICAL
BELIZEAN-CUBAN LINK AS A PROPAGANDA DEVICE, THEN HE
HAS CERTAINLY GIVEN THE PROPAGANDISTS MORE AMMUNITION.
HE HAS ALSO GIVEN THOSE IN GUATEMALA WHO GENUINELY ARE
CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE SHOMAN'S
LEANINGS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF CLOSER THIES BETWEEN
BELIZE AND CUBA SOMETHING MORE TO WORRY ABOUT.
ANDREWS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INDEPENDENCE, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GUATEM03529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760183-0807
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760569/aaaacgun.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE: SHOMAN INTERVIEW IN MEXICO AND GUATEMALAN REACTION
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, MASS, GT, BH, MX, UK, CU, (SHOMAN, ASSAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006